

VZCZCXR05134

PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH

DE RUEHKO #1105 1350721

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 150721Z MAY 09

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2977

INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY 3996

RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA PRIORITY 1622

RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY 6326

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE PRIORITY 7798

RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO PRIORITY 4527

RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

UNCLAS TOKYO 001105

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

COMMERCE FOR NOAA - MARGARIDA YUAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [FAIR](#) [TSPA](#) [SENV](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: MEXT SUPPORTS GLOBAL CHANGE OBSERVATION MISSION  
SATELLITE PROGRAMS

REF: A. SECSTATE 47278

[1](#)B. YUAN-COBBS 05/14/09 EMAIL

[1](#)1. (U) Sensitive but Unclassified. Please handle  
appropriately.

[1](#)2. (SBU) The EST Chief delivered ref A points and the letter  
contained in ref B from Commerce Under Secretary Lubchenco to  
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and  
Technology Deputy-General Masaaki Tanaka May 15.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Tanaka said the GOJ recognizes the importance of  
the Global Change Observation Mission (GCOM) and supports  
continued cooperation between NOAA and the Japan Aerospace  
Exploration Agency (JAXA) on the program. The GOJ intends to  
continue developing the GCOM series, he added, and referred  
to a chart contained in the draft of Japan's Basic Space  
Plan. He noted the chart shows the current proposal calls  
for launching the GCOM-W in 2011 and the GCOM-C in 2014.  
When asked if this represents a delay from the previous plan,  
Tanaka said while JAXA may have its own thoughts on a launch  
schedule, the GOJ has not given final approval to launch  
dates. However, he believes there has been no change from  
the previous plan regarding launch dates. Tanaka also  
mentioned the approximately USD 10 million in additional  
funding earmarked for GCOM under the current GOJ stimulus  
bill as further proof of Japan's commitment to the GCOM  
program.

ZUMWALT